



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

Autumn is always a welcome time of year. We are having a gorgeous fall, now that the monsoon has passed. Cooler weather, football and all the fun that comes along with the games, what more can you ask for. It's also budget season, the one downside.

OJJ celebrated our five-year anniversary as an independent, cabinet-level agency, with programs at offices throughout the state. The big event, held at Jetson, drew a number of public officials, lots of former staff who helped to lay the foundation for who we are today, and a number of current staff who seldom have the opportunity to visit the facility. We had some positive media coverage, and that's always welcome.

I hope you are all aware that OJJ recently created a Crisis Leave Pool to assist staff who have exhausted their leave, and face the prospect of having to go on leave without pay due to an extended illness. OJJ joins several other state agencies in creating the leave pool. We have already had one person benefit from this new policy (No. A.2.58. effective Aug. 5, 2009). I am very proud of our staff who have contributed their leave to the pool, for the benefit of their co-workers. You can contribute anywhere from four to 200 hours of your annual leave. If you want to contribute or need more information, please contact Human Resources.

I hope you are all having a wonderful fall.

"Doc"

Dr. Mary L. Livers

Soul Food

An inspirational column by OJJ staff



Swanson Chaplain Ricky

James

The Creator's s Favorite Word

With all of the tragedies, difficulties, problems, and circumstances that occur in our lives, I am constantly asked, "What's the word?" And so it reminds me that all of us ought to have a word. We ought to have a word for every occasion, or every situation that comes up in our life. The word that I'm talking about may or may not be a singular word, but words plural. These words ought to bring comfort, give strength, and encouragement in a time of need.

And so when tragedies strike, or difficulties come, we ought to have a word, like "The Lord is my shepherd, and I shall not want."

A word, like "I can do all things through Him, which strengthens me." A word like, "If He is for me, who can be against me."

We ought to have a word when we're sick and not feeling well, "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with His stripes, I am healed." When we are going through trying times, we need a word, like "weeping may endure for the night, but joy will come in the morning."

Every child of the Creator ought to have a favorite word. A word like, "They that wait upon Him, he shall renew their strength..." A word like, "let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season, we shall reap, if we faint not."

Well I want to tell you that the Creator has a favorite word, and to me His favorite word is "Come." The word "come" is used 1,955

times in Scripture, and that's not including the words "cometh, or coming".

The word "**come**" is one of the most important words in the Book. It means to arrive, to approach, to draw near, to journey to, and to close in. And the thing that is said most often is not "Depart from me", but "**COME UNTO ME.**" He said to Noah, "come thou and all thy house into the ark." He said to Moses "come up unto me, thou and Aaron..." He said in Luke "suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not..." He said in John "for the thief cometh not, but to steal and to kill, and to destroy; but I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." And in Matthew, it is written, "Come unto me, all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

In times of difficulties, troubles, problems, and circumstances, He wants us to use his favorite word. He wants us to **come** to Him with our problems, trials, troubles, and situations, and He will give us comfort, strength, and encouragement in our time of need. Do you have a favorite word?

Humbly Submitted, Chaplain Ricky L. James

THE DAILY MOTIVATOR

Imagine how great it would be to have someone providing you with a constant supply of encouragement. When you get into the habit of encouraging yourself, that is what you can have.

All day long, you are thinking and saying things to yourself. You have the power to choose precisely what those thoughts and those words will be. Choose to make them positive, uplifting, and encouraging.

When you catch yourself mentally beating up on yourself, decide to stop such destructive behavior right then and there. Instead, give yourself a few words of real, sincere encouragement and notice how much more energized and effective you immediately feel. Also, get into the habit of offering encouragement to others whenever possible.

-- Ralph Marston

OJJ Celebrates Five Years of Progress

This month OJJ celebrated five years of progress in juvenile justice reform and five years as an independent, cabinet-level agency.

The major event at Jetson Center for Youth was attended by approximately 160 guests. Regional offices throughout the state held smaller events to share in the celebration.

Dignitaries who attended the Jetson event included State Senate President Pro Tempore and JJIC member **Sharon Weston Broome**; State Representative and JJIC member **Mack “Bodi” White**; State Representatives **Regina Barrow**, **Elbert Guillory**, **Patricia Smith**, and **Ledricka Thierry**. Also East Baton Rouge Parish Juvenile Court **Judge Kathleen S. Richey**; Baton Rouge **Chief of Police Jeff LeDuff**; Baker **Mayor Harold Rideau**, Baker **Police Chief Mike Knaps**; Baker **Fire Chief Danny Edwards** and Fire Department **Coordinator Howard Ward**; **Don Menard**, St. Landry Parish President; **Christian Molitor**, Dean of the LSU School of Social Work and **Dr. Jerry Pinsel**, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Louisiana Community and Technical College System.



Approximately 160 guests celebrated our anniversary at Jetson.



Philippe Magloire, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Facilities, served as Master of Ceremonies.

The program opened with presentation of the colors by the Jetson Guard, followed by the National Anthem, sung by **Jetson Mst. Sgt. Frances Bailey**. The invocation was offered by **Bishop Samuel Butler** of the Jetson Education Department. Remarks were presented by **OJJ Deputy Secretary Mary L. Livers**; **Jetson Director Daron Brown**, and two Jetson youth, **Jordan H.** and **Brodrick E.** The two youth spoke about the changes they have seen at Jetson, now that a therapeutic model has been put into place, and how the treatment at Jetson has changed their lives.



Youth Jordan Horton



Youth Brodrick E.

The Jetson Rising Stars Choir, directed by LSUHSC **Social Worker Ben Groover** and **Jetson Mst. Sgt. Frances Bailey**, gave a rousing performance that had the audience on their feet, keeping time with the music.



The Rising Stars Choir. Photo by Anne Carter.



Rocking with the choir, from left, Philippe Magloire, Carolyn Lewis, Don Menard, Rep. Elbert Guillory and Rep. Regina Barrow. Photo by Anne Carter.



Keeping time with the choir, Nita Franklin-Shanklin, Victoria Williams, Angela Bridgewater, Ellyn Peterson, Valencia Mellion, Dr. Livers and Martha Morgan.

Guests enjoyed a luncheon prepared by the Jetson Food Services staff directed by **Food Services Director Alethea Bornes**, and the Bridge City Culinary Arts program youth directed by **Chef Ron Sonnier**.



BCCY's Culinary Arts students with their fruit/vegetable display.

Guests also toured the facility, visiting housing units and the school building.

"The staff at Jetson deserve to be commended for all that they have done and all that they have endured during the past few years," said **Deputy Secretary Mary L. Livers**. "It has been a tumultuous time for all of us in OJJ, and for Jetson in particular. The staff hung in there and worked very hard to support the agency and embrace the changes. And they did it for one reason: to provide the best services possible for the youth in their care. What better place to have our big anniversary event, so that guests can see the huge changes that have taken place at Jetson."

"Throughout all the changes, the rough times and the good times, OJJ staff has remained steadfast in working daily to meet our mission," Dr. Livers continued. "During the past five years, OJJ has made great strides and succeeded in making progress. We have to continue to focus on our mission, and put it above our individual needs and egos. The mission is why we are here."

Many thanks to **Jetson Director Daron Brown** and his staff, as well as the Jetson youth, for all the work they put in to organize the event and have the facility looking its best.

Thanks also to the **staff at Bridge City and Swanson** for their assistance and support for the celebration. Youth from the Bridge City Culinary Arts program, under the direction of **Chef Ron Sonnier**, traveled to Jetson twice in the middle of the night to prepare desserts and an extraordinary fruit, vegetable and cheese display. Special thanks to **Food Services Director Alethea Bornes**, her clerical assistant **Tanisha Bush**, who designed the program, and the **Jetson Food Services staff**.

Thanks to Dixon Correctional Institute for their help with the grounds and for lending equipment, and to the City of Baker for lending chairs and tables.

Event committee members included **Katherine Abrams**, Administrative Assistant in Community Based Programs; **Frances Bailey**, Jetson Master Sergeant; **Brad Ballard**, Jetson Facilities Maintenance Manager; **Daron Brown**, Jetson Facility Director; **Alethea Bornes**, Central Office Food Service Director; **Jerel Giarrusso**, Communications Director; **Ed Green**, Title 1 Director, Education Services; **Alonzo Jones**, Jetson Recreation Therapist; **Sue Larisey**, Baton Rouge Regional Manager; **Kristi Martin**, Shreveport Regional Manager; **Paula Roddy**, Deputy Undersecretary; **Michelle Smith**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Special Projects and **Belinda Thomas**, Jetson Program Manager.

"I am so proud of where we are today. OJJ will always be a work in progress, as we continue to grow and learn. I look forward to many more years of working together with you as we shape OJJ into one of the nation's most effective juvenile justice agencies," Dr. Livers concluded.

Alexandria OJJ Celebrates the Five Year Anniversary

Alexandria OJJ celebrated its fifth anniversary with a program that highlighted positive changes in the state's juvenile justice system over the past five years. The program was attended by local OJJ staff, local stakeholders, local partners and youth.

Supervisor Clay Dupuy opened the program by sharing a few opening remarks from Dr. Mary Livers. Clay then summarized OJJ's changes relative to our strategic plan, especially community resources and reductions in secure custody youth.

Other speakers during the program included **Judge Patricia Koch** of the 9th Judicial District, **Kathy Canerday** of AMikids – Alexandria, **Sharon Lair** of Louisiana

Mentors, and local probation officers **Rodney McNeal** and **Donna Desoto**. Alexandria OJJ's celebration also included probation youth **Jared D.** and **Beth M.** Both youth spoke about their experiences as probationers of OJJ.

The celebration ended with those in attendance sharing punch, cake and photo opportunities.



Alexandria OJJ celebrates the five year anniversary

Hammond OJJ Holds a Celebration of Progress

Hammond OJJ celebrated the Fifth Anniversary of OJJ as an independent, cabinet-level agency. Judges, providers and contract programs were invited to join in the celebration. **Probation and Parole Supervisor Johnny Prentice** served as emcee for the celebration.



Left – Decoration at the Hammond OJJ Anniversary Celebration. Right: PPS Johnny Prentice serving as emcee for the Anniversary Celebration.

Natchitoches OJJ's Five Year Anniversary Celebration

Natchitoches OJJ celebrated the fifth anniversary with refreshments and dignitaries on hand. The **Honorable Dee A. Hawthorne**, with the 10th Judicial District Juvenile Court, was our guest speaker. Judge Hawthorne applauded the Office of Juvenile Justice for continued support and influence on the community. Judge Hawthorne also praised the Office of Juvenile Justice for participation and involvement in case management for Drug Court.



Judge Dee Hawthorne and Monique LaCour, Program Specialist

In attendance at the celebration were Region 8-B providers, facility personnel, judges, district attorneys, local law enforcement agencies and FINS officers from DeSoto, Red River, Sabine and Natchitoches Parishes. **Program Specialist Monique LaCour** presided over the celebration and presented an overview of our office and agency mission, to include where we began and where we are now, five years later. Ms. LaCour presented Judge Hawthorne with a polo shirt with our office logo on it.

CQIS Policy Updates

These are the policies approved this month:

A.3.6 Grants Administration - 9/16/09

A.3.11 Bonds and Crimes Loss Prevention Program - 9/16/09

B.4.1 Youth Sentence Computation - 9/8/09

B.5.1 Youth Code of Conduct - 9/3/09

Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on...



**Kim Scott,
Probation and Parole Supervisor,
Shreveport Regional Office**

Probation and Parole Supervisor Kim Scott needed a change in scenery when she went to work at Shreveport OJJ ten years ago, in November 1999. She transferred from DOTD after ten years, where she served as a construction inspector. Little did she realize at that time that the job of Probation and Parole Officer 1 would become her life's work. She became a supervisor in 2006.

"There is rarely a day that is the same, there is something new happening every day," Kim said. "Our kids motivate me, and I do my best to teach the people I supervise to relate to the youth and do the best job they can for them."

As a supervisor, Kim tries to make the job the best it can be for the PPOs she supervises. "If you are not able to adapt, change and overcome, you are not going to last here," she said. "If someone can't handle the uncertainty of what the day will bring, they won't stay in this field for long."

"Dependable and efficient supervisors are the key to a successful office. Kim is an extremely hard-working and dedicated employee," said **Regional Manager Kristi Martin**. "She

routinely goes above and beyond to ensure that the responsibilities of the office are met.

PPS Scott is committed to the agency mission and to the betterment of Shreveport OJJ. She is an asset to our agency.”

“Time just flies – this has been a great learning experience,” Kim said. “One of the best things is hearing the success stories. They are few and far between, but there are some success stories out there. When I was a PO, I had a caseload of females, and even now, a few of the girls will come see me and visit. Most are in their twenties now with children of their own. They will tell me how they have bettered themselves. I am always so excited to see my girls. I tell them, ‘I knew you had it in you!’ ”

“Success is measured in different levels,” Kim said. “If we can help a youth get a GED or a job, or better themselves in their circumstances, that’s a success. It’s important to give our youth the tools they need to be successful.”

“We have a lot of new PPOs, and one of things we teach them is the importance of what we are doing as an agency,” Kim continued. “They have to learn how to get to know the child and family, so OJJ can provide appropriate services. Sometimes it’s quite a task, when you have expectations from both the judges and the parents. People who are not in this line of work are truly amazed at the lengths we go to, to find the services most appropriate for our youth and their families. It can be trying sometimes, but it’s always worth the effort.”

“If we can save one youth, and have one success story, it’s worth it,” Kim said. “It’s really rewarding to see our youth succeed. But, there are times when you wonder if you will ever make a difference, but we don’t have time to stop and dwell on that.”

“We do the best that we can do for our youth, every day,” Kim said. “We try to make the best decisions for them. Often times when working with judges, it’s difficult to come to

an agreement on the best “plan” for the youth.

Kim said when a child is in OJJ custody, the PPOs act as guardians. “It’s a great responsibility, you are responsible for taking the youth to the doctor, the hospital, sign for surgery, etc.”

Crises are not confined to business hours. Kim said you just do what you have to do, whenever it needs to be done. “When you have to transport a youth at 1 a.m., that may not exactly be the middle of the night. It may be a continuation of what you were doing during the day. There are few Fridays with no emergency at 4:30 p.m., meaning that someone has to work late.”

A lot of youth are from other regions, and when they have to go to court, perhaps in New Orleans, or they need to be seen at a mental health hospital, it’s a long drive. “Now we have transport officers, but before the transport officers came aboard, PPOs did all of the transports,” Kim noted.

Kim was a PPCT Instructor, teaching Defensive Tactics, for three years, but decided to step aside to allow new PPOs to take on the responsibility. Kim said that teaching people from different regions is a good way to meet OJJ staff from around the state.

Kim has three children – a 21 year old daughter who is completing her nursing studies, and 16- year-old boy/girl twins who are students at Parkway High School in Bossier City. Kim said her time is spent with her kids’ cheerleading, basketball and school functions. A single mother, Kim is engaged to be married in December.

When her day is done, Kim heads for the Lake Bistineau area where she and her children make their home. “We are surrounded by horses and pasture, it’s a place of peace,” Kim said. “After a busy day, you have to be refreshed once in a while.”

Water sports and boating are favorite pursuits, but reading is Kim's greatest passion for her personal time. "Reading is a lifelong interest, and I could read books constantly if I had the chance. I like realistic stories and series – I like to start at the beginning and continue through the series." Favorite authors are John Sanford, Michael Connelly and Patricia Cornwell, and she loves detective stories and murder mysteries.

While Kim had no professional background in working with children when she came to OJJ, other than having children of her own, it's obvious that working with OJJ's youth has become a satisfying career. To echo **RM Kristi Martin**, Kim Scott works daily to meet OJJ's mission, and she is truly an asset to the agency.

Ware Youth Center Receives OJJ Training

By Staci Scott, Ware Youth Center ACA Manager/Staff Trainer

Ware Youth Center, in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice, recently had three weeks of orientation training for the new Intensive Residential staff. Staff attending this training included 24 Childcare Workers, three Social Services Counselors, three Resident Advisors and the Program Manager.

The first week of orientation began with Staff Development Instructors from Swanson Center for Youth, **Glenda Joshua** and **Delbert Blunt**, starting the La MOD kickoff. Staff enjoyed presentations by OJJ **Treatment Director Annette Arthur** and **Arlona Wells-Morgan**. During the second week of training, staff took part in the Challenge Course with **John Preston from SCY**. La MOD was brought to a close with the La MOD graduation ceremony where staff enjoyed refreshments and a tour of the new facility.

During the third week of training, staff was trained in Safe Crisis Management techniques by **Delbert Blunt, Ricky James, Lee Ballard**

and Donald Armstrong from SCY. The staff was delighted to have OJJ Girls Program Manager Perla Steele at the facility for training on Code of Conduct, Report Writing and Grievance Procedures.

The class is very excited to begin their new adventure just as much as we are excited to have them as valuable employees of Ware Youth Center.

Below are photos from the orientation training at Ware Youth Center.



Transitions

Comings and Goings.....welcome to new members of the OJJ Family:

BRIDGE CITY

Virgil Delpit, Corrections Cadet
 Dominique Domino, Corrections Cadet
 Marlene Kalili-Sailor, Corrections Cadet
 Freddie Smith, Corrections Cadet
 Julian Tennessee, Corrections Cadet
 Regina Conley-Payne, Corrections Cadet
 Wilma Covington, Corrections Cadet
 Daniel Armstrong, Youth Care Worker 1
 Shantez Bean, Youth Care Worker 2
 Matthew Joseph, Youth Care Worker 2
 Montressa Johnson, Youth Care Worker 3

CENTRAL OFFICE

Edward Chafford, Security Officer

SWANSON

Carolyn Atkins, Youth Facility Director
 Terry Davis, Corrections Cadet
 Dominique Hodge, Corrections Cadet
 Dantrell Green, Youth Care Worker 1

ALEXANDRIA

Abby Lemoine, Probation & Parole Off. 1

PROMOTIONS**SHREVEPORT**

Mitchell Lane, Probation & Parole
 Supervisor-JUV
 Steve Martino, Probation & Parole
 Supervisor-JUV

REALLOCATIONS**BRIDGE CITY**

Tamara Cotton, Social Service Counselor 2
 Joycelyn Santee, Social Services Counselor 2
 Marcema Winzy, Social Service Counselor 3
 Loretta Taylor, Corrections Sergeant

CENTRAL OFFICE

Vy Nguyen, IT APPL PROG/Analyst 2

SWANSON

Cheryl Bethea, Youth Care Worker 3
 Onufrey Dixon, Social Service Counselor 2
 Quintina Evert, Social Service Counselor 3
 Scott Haley, IT Tech Support Spec 2
 Kristy Besant, Corrections Sergeant

DEATH:**SWANSON**

Leamon Windsor, Corrections Sergeant

Alexandria Regional Office

Alexandria OJJ hosted its Quarterly Providers Meeting with 18 providers in attendance. The meeting was conducted by **Regional Manager Johnny Qualls**.

Welcome to **PPO1 Abby Lemoine**, who transferred from the Office of Support Enforcement Services.

RM Johnny Qualls is a proud grandfather once again. His stepdaughter, **Chassidy**, gave birth recently to a healthy baby girl named **Sadie Grace**.

Baton Rouge Regional Office**Welcome**

PPO Myron Theriot joined the Baton Rouge OJJ Family.

Congratulations

AC Christina Falcon, August Employee of the Month.

PPO Patsy Adams, September Employee of the Month.

Farewell

Baton Rouge OJJ said goodbye to **PPO April Ross-Calvey**.

Baton Rouge OJJ participated in the following trainings for the month of September:

PPCT Refresher taught by **PPS Susan Miller** and **PPO Stephanie Krygowski**, for the entire staff.

Medicaid Recertification**PPS Joyce Watkins****PPO Wendy Sarner****PPO April Ross-Calvey****Chemical Weapons Training by PPO****Stephanie Krygowski****PPO Yolanda Brown****PPO Deshona Mobley****PPO Steven Dukes****Motivational Interviewing****PPS Rickey Cannon****Bridge City Center for Youth****Fulfilling the Vision of OJJ*****The First BCCY Annual Family Day Gathering***

BCCY'S first ever **Annual Family Day Gathering** was held in September. The idea was born when the staff of Justice Dormitory were discussing the youth during their weekly team meeting. Staff were concerned that some of the youth were not getting weekly visits from their parents. Some youth were very depressed because they hadn't seen their parents in over a year. Staff came up with the idea to have a Family Day for all the youth on a Saturday. They decided to incorporate the Vision of OJJ as a guide to making the event a success. They wanted to lift the spirits of the youth and give the families a chance to see what the La MOD program was about.

The idea was greeted with much enthusiasm by the administration and staff at BCCY. Donations from Social Services, Education, Staff Development, Cafeteria, Infirmary, Security staff, LSUHSC and Administration helped to make this day possible. The whole facility, as well as volunteers, pulled together to provide the refreshments, activities, music and decorations for this wonderful event.

Parents were notified and called a month in advance. They were asked to come out and support their child on Family Day. The

concept of Family Day was presented to the youth in one of their group sessions. Several youth were nervous that their family might not come. But Justice Dormitory had a back-up plan. They had mentors standing by to support the youth in case families were unable to attend.

Saturday morning, families began arriving and getting searched for Family Day. We never forget that safety comes first. The festivities began with **Group Leader Robert Scott** welcoming all the families and introducing the staff. **Director Linda London**, **Principal Doreen Phoenix** and many other staff came out to support this event. It was held in the beautifully decorated pavilion; the barbecue pits were smoking, music was playing and there were plenty of games for the young family members to play. After a while the dancing and singing began. A family team-building exercise in the form of a line dance called the *Bus Stop* got everyone involved and in good spirits. Laughter, smiles and an abundance of good feelings were spread throughout the pavilion. **Jamod** from Household of Faith Church spoke to the families and performed gospel rap and recited poetry. Everyone really enjoyed it.

Chicken, hamburgers, potato salad, hot dogs, nachos, red beans and rice as well as an abundance of cold drinks were served throughout the afternoon. Beautifully decorated cakes and cookies were provided by BCCY's Culinary Arts program. The Dining Hall Staff pulled together to support the project by providing strawberry shortcakes for every one.

After several hours in the pavilion the entire group went upstairs to tour Justice dormitory. There the families participated in a check-in and a group activity. The families got to see where their child sleeps and how they live. They all checked in as super heroes.

Many families expressed that they were overwhelmed by the wonderful atmosphere in the dorm and by the caring and love they saw

from the staff. One of the parents said she had been here many years ago to visit her youngest brother when BCCY was still called LTI-New Orleans. She couldn't believe how much this place had really changed. She said the facility and dorms never looked so welcoming. Her little brother had never had anyone to sit down and talk to him the way staff does now. She hopes when her son comes home he uses the thinking skills he learned at BCCY to become a better person. She said he looks healthier and happier now than he ever has.

Kristina Koontz, the Casa Manager of Justice, was very grateful for the love and support from the entire BCCY staff. "Justice Dormitory would like to thank all staff that contributed to this event to make it a success," she said.

Louis Evans, Assistant Group Leader of Justice, told the parents, "We're here to help the youth become law-abiding citizens. We'll never give up on your children and we will provide the best care we can for them."

Group Leader Robert Scott stated that he was most proud that the event enabled all involved to fulfill the vision of OJJ. "A partnership was formed between BCCY staff, LSUHSC staff, community volunteers and the families of the youth to create an enjoyable environment for the youth. We saw grandmothers, parents, and their sons (three generations) laughing, dancing, playing games, talking, eating together - doing things that families should do."

The vision of OJJ was alive and well at BCCY's Family Day on Saturday afternoon as the staff, the families and the volunteers worked together to encourage the youth to redirect their lives toward responsible citizenship.

Riverside Alternative School's 2009 Varsity Quiz

Do you know the name of the first American President to be born at a hospital?

Chances are, you don't walk around with this type of information on your mind. The students of Riverside Alternative School knew the answers to that and many more questions posed to them at the Varsity Quiz Bowl which was held on September 22nd, and 23rd, 2009. Students raced through questions provided by their educational staff from research and daily classroom instruction. Each team member had an opportunity to answer toss up questions worth one point and follow up questions worth five points. The team with the highest score after each round had the opportunity to move on in the competition.

Titanannia Jones, substitute teacher for Riverside High School, coordinated the program under the guidance of our **Principal Dorean Phoenix**. Much of the planning and coordination was done on a voluntary basis by Ms. Jones at home. This gifted college student solicited questions from the excellent teaching staff of Riverside High School and found research topics with the school's librarian, **Gaynel Adams**.

"Ms. Jones was determined to produce a quality filled and fun educational event for the young men at our school", said **Ms. Adams**. "The excitement was contagious."

The entire staff at BCCY was proud to see the students shine. **Director Linda London** showed her support by encouraging the youth to exhibit proper sportsman-like conduct and to be proud of the fact that they worked hard to be a team member.

From the competition, the following winners emerged:

First Place: Hope Dorm (Zawadi) Gerald M., Kody G., Patrick H., Cameron L., DeAndre B.

Second Place: Perseverance Dorm (Rex)-
Bryan S., Steven T., John H., Redell P., Frank S.

Third Place: Serenity (Kuumba) Nathaniel M., Joseph D., Shawn L., Wesley P., Galen L.

Other participants included Harmony (Zulu):
Thomas L., Isaiah P., James V., Davonte' B.

Dignity (Ujima): Brian M., Damon B., Cody G., Josh M.

Destiny (Umoja): Jordan M., Tyrone T., Joshua R., Chris B.

Faith(Nia): Anthony M., Devonte B., Warren P., James W., Brandon W., Chris B., Chris T.

Pride (Ujamaa): Timothy C., Alfred S., Larry G., Delwin M., Zachary H., Carlton S.

Pride (Imani): Trent L., Walter B., Joshua R., John B., Kenneth R.

Liberty (Bacchus): Courtney R., Winston W., Michael M., Daniel U., Alex L., Raymond D.

Following the competition, there were receptions celebrating the contest and the winners. The faculty and staff donated the money to purchase the items for the receptions, and **Chef Ron Sonnier** and his class provided the beverages.

Students are excited about the Black History Quiz Bowl which will take place in February 2010. They are asking for their research topics and questions to begin to develop strategies.

By the way, the first president to be born in a hospital was President James "Jimmy" Carter, our 39th president, who was born at the Wise Clinic in Plains, Ga. on October 1, 1924.

Fun Friday at BCCY!

By Monique Jones

Well! Well! Well! Staff at BCCY have successfully done it again.

In September we had our first potluck/tail gate gathering for the Fun Friday event. This event was held in the Culinary Arts Building. Staff from all departments came to enjoy themselves as well as a good meal. For this event, each department was responsible for decorating the Culinary Arts Building with banners, flyers, posters, etc. of their favorite NFL team. The Administration, Warehouse, Investigations, Security, Social Service, Education, and Training Department all were represented by showcasing their favorite team. However, the Education Department knows how to show off and show out.

Principal Dorean Pheonix, along with the education staff, performed by second lining. Yes! Yes! Yes! They paraded through the doors with their fancy Saints hats, shirts, jerseys and umbrellas. They did an outstanding job displaying their decorations.

Remember, the purpose of Fun Fridays is to show appreciation to all employees for the commitment, support, and hard work the exhibit daily.

Director Linda London said, "I want to thank everyone for making this gathering successful. Your contributions and assistance are greatly appreciated. Special thanks go to the Dining Hall Staff, **Chef Sonnier** and his students. The support and service they provide really makes a difference."



Fun

Friday Frolickers, From left, Dorean Phoenix, Sandra Surtain, Bella Berry, Gaynel Adams and Ina Anderson



Enjoying Fun Friday are Veronica George, Director Linda London and Runiaja Vicks-Brown, representing the Dallas Cowboys.

BCCY Staff Receive Information About the Certificate in Juvenile Justice

Representatives from Delgado Community College met with BCCY staff interested in registering for the first of a series of juvenile justice classes in September.

A Certificate of Technical Studies: Juvenile Justice, will be available to staff who successfully complete all eight classes in the curriculum. Qualified employees who successfully complete the classes will receive a five percent pay increase.

BCCY staff are very excited about the opportunity to advance their education and knowledge of the juvenile justice system.

BCCY'S Senior Team Meeting

Competition was in full force at BCCY's Senior Team Meeting. Staff had an opportunity to participate in a group activity emphasizing problem-solving and working together. Staff were divided into groups of three and given nine minutes to see which team could build the tallest free standing marshmallow tower. Only one person in the group could talk while the other two people had to use toothpicks and marshmallows to build the tower, while keeping one of their hands behind their back. Although the competition was close, the team of **Doreen Phoenix, Mike Morris and Letecia Green** constructed the tallest tower. After the activity the group discussed how it felt to work together. Each week the staff participates in an activity before presenting it to their dorms. A good time was had by all!



Major Mary Gatlin, Asst. Group Leader Louis Evans and Administrative Coordinator Tracy Clayton building a marshmallow tower.

BCCY Holds Volunteer Orientation

We were pleased to welcome 24 volunteers during our recent Volunteer Orientation Program. The program was spirit-filled and enlightening for all the participants.

The volunteers learned about the daily operation of the facility. **Administrative Assistant Sharonda Smith** did a tremendous job of inviting churches to the event based on the number of participants. We were successful in recruiting new

volunteers and dismissing any negative information.

The high point of the evening came when the volunteers were allowed to visit Justice Dorm. They were pleased to meet the youth, staff and the dorm. Hats off to **Major Scott, Group Leader** and **Mr. Evans, Assistant Group Leader**, for a job well done.

New volunteer groups from the House of Faith wish to work closely with our youth as mentors while providing a great link to the community for our youth. No Cross, No Crown Church wants to plan an October Fest.

Thanks to **Director Linda London** for allowing this activity, and to **Dorothy Favorite, Caseworker**, for her assistance. We look forward to growing our Volunteer Program.

Central Office

Congratulations – lots of new babies and grandbabies

IT Applications Project Leader Sean Labat, wife **Shalisha** and four year old sister **Alena** welcomed new baby **Brienne Elisabeth** in September. Brienne came a little early so our surprise baby shower was delayed a bit. She arrived weighing 5 lbs., 10 oz. and was 17 inches long. Sean was feted with a shower anyway, complete with cake, balloons and gifts. **IT Administrative Assistant Terri Scott** and **Programmer Shannon Howell** planned the shower and showed the rest of the IT group how a shower works. Quite a number of central office gentlemen attended the shower and enjoyed the unique experience, and the men of IT served soft drinks and cut and served the cake. (Thanks, **Vy Nguyen** and **Wade Campbell**.) Sean admitted he had never had a baby shower before, but it was a wonderful experience.



Sean Labat enjoys his first baby shower.

Human Resources Director Gwendolyn Jones has a new grandson. **J'Quincy Craig Jones, Jr.** was born in September to Gwen's son and daughter-in-law **J'Quincy and Erica Jones**. The baby weighed 8 lbs., 6 oz. and was 22 inches long. Gwen tells us her maiden name is Craig, so her first grandchild carries her name as well.

ACA Accreditation Manager Angela Arabie has a new granddaughter. **Macy Nicole** was born in September, weighing 7 lbs., to **Tiffany and Mike Nealy**.

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to two staff members on the recent loss of their fathers: **Chief of Operations Ellyn Peterson** and **Program Coordinator Katie Kirkpatrick**. Please keep Ellyn and Katie, and their families, in your prayers.

Best Wishes

Jason Williams, IT Equipment Operator, was recently injured in a car accident. Jason is really missed at central office. We're hoping Jason is back on his feet and back at work very soon.

Congratulations

Administrative Assistant NyKisha Franklin recently received her Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix. NyKisha worked diligently to complete her degree over the last four years, while holding down a fulltime job and being a parent to two young children.

HR Supervisor Amanda Lewis is engaged to Eric Smith. The wedding will take place in early November.

Family and Community Liaison Marlyn Goins-McCants' daughter, Zakiya Goins-McCants, is a National Merit Finalist and a National Achievement finalist. Zakiya is a senior at Baton Rouge High School

Retirement Party Held for Roy Ortego

Community-Based Services, under the direction of **Deputy Assistant Secretary Carolyn Lewis**, held a retirement celebration for **Program Specialist Roy Ortego** recently. Roy's wife, Kathy, also attended.



DAS Carolyn Lewis presents Roy Ortego with a certificate of appreciation for his 32 years of service.

The party honored Roy for 32 years of service to the State of Louisiana. Roy wore many hats while working with Youth Services: He worked in the Baton Rouge regional office as a Probation Officer, handling field and placement cases; he was promoted to supervisor and promoted to Program Specialist in 2000. Roy reported that he is enjoying spending time with his children and

grandchildren, gardening, doing chores around the house, fishing, and just relaxing. DAS Lewis presented the official Certificate of Retirement (?) to Roy. He will be remembered fondly as a quiet, hard working, experienced, and supportive worker. We wish Roy and his family well.

Hammond Regional Office

The Hammond OJJ Superstar this month is **PPO3 Dana May**. Dana was nominated by **PPO2 Tiffany James** for giving the PREA presentation to two of her youth at Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention Center.

Jetson Center for Youth

By Belinda Thomas, Program Manager

As we wake up each morning we can never imagine what is in store for us. I recently experienced a breathing-taking moment. It put me in the mindframe of what must have been going through the minds of those experiencing the walls of Jericho coming down. It was mind blowing to see all the fences in Area 3 down. It gave me a sense of freedom. It felt like a bird flying out of its cage for the first time. I could see all the housing units clearly without looking through the small holes of the fences.



The fences coming down at Jetson.



Razor wire from an interior fence being removed at Jetson.

It was a wonderful feeling. Can you imagine what the youth were feeling or what they were thinking? I heard several comments from the youth. "Are they crazy?" "What is going on? Do they not remember several youth going over one of the yard fences the other day?" "Do they trust us that much?" I could only respond "This is another step toward La MOD." This is another step toward a true therapeutic model. This is another step toward removing the corrections mentality. This is another step toward reminding the youth that they are not being punished for the offense they committed, but to let them know that we are here to help them transition their lives into men with dignity, pride, and self sufficiency.

We will educate you, provide you with technical skills, prepare you with life skills, help you overcome your anger and, emotionally stabilize your mind if you allow me and my staff do that. Yes, we want to prepare you to be law abiding citizens.

I am very proud of the direction this facility is going in. I have staff that are dedicated and love the youth they oversee every day. I know we have a long way go, but bringing down the fences put things in a new perspective. It allowed me to really think from a youth's perspective, what it must feel like to be confined and separated by fences.

Thanks to ESO Barbara Bell

Barbara Bell, Jetson Executive Staff Officer, oversees the facility's PPR process to ensure that performance appraisals are processed timely. According to a recent CQIS review, Jetson was the only facility that had ZERO untimely PPRs reported, thanks to Ms. Bell!

Mrs. Bell has the task of reminding supervisors and ensuring that all PPRs are sent to central office timely. "Not only is she diligent," said **Director Daron Brown**, "but she is also persistent. Every supervisor at Jetson receives one or two notices from her in reference to PPRs."

"Mrs. Bell also received the Director's Award of Excellence for her hard work earlier this year," Director Brown added.

Jetson Youth Attend College Football Games

Coach Alonzo Jones, MSgt. Reginald Robinson, Sgt. Jumar Ficklin, Major James Spears, Major Larry Shropshire, Counselor, Nikisha Spann, and La MOD Coordinator Fouad Harb escorted seven youth to Southern University when SU hosted the Central State Marauders. The youth enjoyed being able to attend the game, especially the win over Central State, 68-0.

For the next game, **Coach Alonzo Jones, MSgt. Reginald Robinson, Sgt. Jumar Ficklin, Major James Spears, Major Larry Shropshire, Sgt. Latish Richardson and Counselor Nikisha Spann** escorted eight youth to Southern University to watch the Jaguars play the Tennessee State University Tigers. The youth really enjoyed the halftime show and blended with the crowd as they celebrated the win 21-17 over the TSU Tigers. Go Jags!

Jetson Staff Lead the Way Pursuing Certificates of Technical Studies in Juvenile Justice

Moving from a correctional approach to a treatment approach requires different skills. OJJ has made exceptional efforts to help staff meet the challenge, adapt to change, enhance their education, and meet the Mission. Leadership worked diligently with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) to develop a Certificate of Technical Studies in Juvenile Justice, a one-year program for staff employed by OJJ.

Thanks to the agency's leadership, for making it a priority and a reality. Thanks go to **Deputy Assistant Secretary Philippe Magloire** who spearheaded the plan and **Staff Development Director Fran Martin** who developed the curriculum and coordinated the effort between OJJ and LCTCS. Also thanks to **Policy Planner Diana Williamson** who co-authored the material, and **Program Manager Arlona Wells-Morgan** who provided input.

Staff will earn the certificate by successfully completing eight courses especially designed for OJJ, to help staff better meet the needs of our youth and provide higher quality, individualized services. The courses are:

- Introduction to Juvenile Justice
- Basic Fundamentals of Youth, Drugs, and Juvenile Programs
- Basic Fundamentals of Crisis Intervention
- Basic Fundamentals of Working With Mentally Ill Youth
- Basic Fundamentals of Maladaptive Behavior
- Introduction to Ethics and Boundaries in Working With Youth and High-Risk Behaviors
- Basic Fundamentals of Technical Reporting
- Cooperative Work Experience 100 (internship)

OJJ worked with LCTCS to keep the tuition as low as possible. OJJ approved a policy (A.2.54: Attainment of One Year Certificate in Juvenile Justice) to grant qualified staff who obtain the One-Year Certificate a five percent pay increase. In further efforts to reduce the costs, OJJ developed the curriculum and offered the class materials at no cost to the staff. Currently, Introduction to Juvenile Justice is being offered to kick off the program. Other classes will be offered during the spring semester.

Jetson was the first facility to take advantage of the program. **Director Daron Brown** provided direction as well as logistical and moral support. He requested that every effort be made to make this initiative successful. He also assigned **Fouad Harb, La MOD Coordinator**, to coordinate implementation at Jetson. Personnel from Human Resources, Mr. Harb, and LCTCS staff from Florida Parishes Technical College attended Roll Call to provide information and register staff.

Classes began at Jetson in August, and there are two classes with 20 students, offered through Florida Parishes Technical College. Staff from Central Office and several disciplines at Jetson are registered. When the students took their first test, the grades were proof of their interest and dedication. Jetson staff is very excited about this initiative, and many staff who did not register this semester plan to start classes in the spring.



Students in the OJJ class.

Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

Congratulations

St. Mary Parish **PPS Steve Neef** was chosen at the **September Employee of the Month**. Steve has been leading the St. Mary Parish Unit since late last year, and members of his unit held an appreciation lunch for him last month.

Lafayette **PPO Joey Graciana** and Opelousas **Social Worker Stephanie Ledet** became engaged in September.

The Lafayette Harley Owners' Group, of which Lafayette **PPO Roy Brown** is a member, sold raffle tickets for \$20 to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association, in accord with the Jerry Lewis MDS Labor Day Telethon. The grand prize was a 2009 Harley-Davidson motorcycle or \$15,000. The local Hog Chapter raised \$77,000 for Jerry's Kids, which included \$300 raised from raffle tickets purchased by the officers of the Lafayette and Opelousas offices.

In September the students at the VOA Day Program in Lafayette were presented with an American flag by **Congressman Charles Boustany**, after they wrote to the representative to request one. The flag was delivered with a certificate from **Stephen Ayers, Acting Architect** of the Capitol, attesting that the flag was flown over the United States Capitol on July 30, 2009. Mr. Ayers stated that the flag was flown above the Capitol expressly for the students of the VOA Day Program. Iberia Parish **PPO Cassandra Gardiner** gave the students instructions in folding the flag.

Multisystemic Therapies hosted an overview meeting for stakeholders in Vermilion, St. Mary and St. Landry Parishes at the Vermilion Parish Library in Abbeville. Those in attendance were given a great deal of information about MST's programs and their

tremendous success rate. Members of the school systems, court systems, local law enforcement, and the Office of Community Services attended. The Lafayette and Opelousas OJJ offices were very well represented by **RM Sharon Guillory, PPSs Top Guillory, Steve Neef, and Ken Stewart, PPOs Kevin Broussard, Rhonda Gallet, Jimmy Guidry, Andre Harrison, Bobby Jesset, Karla Meranto, Ronald Rogers and Brian Simpson, and Social Workers Stephanie Ledet and Maria Menard.**

St. Martin Parish **PPO Chris Mahler** began his 10th year as a volunteer coach for the Edgar Martin Junior High School football team. In their first game of the season, PPO Mahler's Rams beat the Acadian Middle Cougars 28-6.

Five students from the Lafayette VOA Day Program participated in a self-affirmation program designed by Destiny of Faith. The head waiter at Charlie G's restaurant in Lafayette introduced the youths to a formal place setting with specialty items such as escargot and caviar. In September, the five youths dressed their best, and were taken to lunch at Copeland's Restaurant in a limousine. **PPOs Heather Campbell, Nick Landry, and Rosanna Langner** helped get them ready for their big day out.

September 11, 2009 was the eighth anniversary of one of the darkest days in our nation's history. Those of us who remember the horrors that occurred that day will never forget the feelings they stirred. Lafayette **PPO Roy Brown** came across some pictures from September 2001. As flags were flying at half-mast across the nation in honor of the innocent victims, the Lafayette OYD Office decided it was time to erect a flagpole in front of the building to proudly display Old Glory. **PPO Denis Lacroix, PPS John Baker** (now at Alexandria OJJ), **PPS Robert Guirard, PPO Roy Brown, and PPO Johnny Kirk** (Retired) gave their time and elbow grease to raise two flagpoles that still stand in front of the office today.



The team that raised the flag at Lafayette OJJ.

Lake Charles Regional Office

Social Worker Janice Manuel celebrated one full year of OJJ employment! We are honored to have her on our team!

Many employees within our office have demonstrated generosity by donating baby and toddler clothes, as well as other baby items, to the two young sons of an Allen Parish teen mother/probationer.

PPS Melissa Cross, PPO Delisa Clark and PPO Monet Newman promoted OJJ and recruited interns and potential job applicants at the McNeese State University Career Fair in September.

The new Lake Charles OJJ building is coming along! Projected completion date is December 31, 2009. We have been living with temporary conditions since September 2008 when Hurricane Ike significantly flooded our office. We are so anxious to move into our new building!



The Lake Charles OJJ office building takes shape.

RM Ann Vick travelled to Ohio for an ACA Conference in September.

PPO Rebecca Harmon continues to excel and look for new programs. Rebecca collaborated with the Calcasieu Parish Public Libraries to develop a reading program for troubled youth (primarily to service children placed at Boys Village). Further, Rebecca has become proficient in troubleshooting JETS problems, and she often assists co-workers with these problems.

Social Worker Janice Manuel arranged several activities for our office to recognize Yellow Ribbon Week for Suicide Prevention Week.

Erline Pierce, Ann Vick, Janice Manuel, Monet Newman, and Melissa Cross have volunteered to participate in the SPICY Walk scheduled for November, also for suicide prevention.

PPO Delisa Clark invited OJJ staff to attend a recent function hosted by her sorority as a fund raiser for Sickle Cell Anemia. The Rape Crisis Center presented a puppet show and there were many activities for children.

Administrative Coordinator Annette Stoddard has enjoyed test driving many vehicles this month in anticipation of a new vehicle purchase.

PPO Fred Fontenot assisted group home staff and volunteered to be an additional chaperone so that several Boys Village residents could attend an LSU football game in September.

On the morning of September 18, **PPO Fred Fontenot** performed a random act of kindness by assisting a young, obviously pregnant woman who had been stranded on the side of the road all night. Fred helped get the young woman to safety.

Social Worker Janice Manuel continues to provide valuable training in our local area. She presented a training course on bullying to a group of school counselors.

Our officers are appreciated!

Monroe Regional Office

Monroe OJJ is looking forward to welcoming several new probation officers who are in the process of being hired. With our recent transfer and retirements, we are anxious to have them come on board.

Monroe Says Goodbye

Monroe OJJ recently hosted a retirement luncheon for two of our favorite employees, **PPO Donald Hamler** and **Administrative Coordinator Brenda DuPriest**. We will miss them both very much.

Monroe OJJ recently lost a valued employee. **PPO T.J. Malveaux** transferred to Thibodaux OJJ office. He will be missed.

Monroe OJJ recently participated in SAVRY training.

Monroe OJJ conducted POST firearms requalifications in September.

The IVE review for Monroe OJJ was held on September. We are proud of the fact that all reviewed cases remain certified IVE.

The QA Audit was conducted for Monroe OJJ in September. **RM Patty Newman** and her supervisors are proud of the Probation Officers and staff in Monroe, and congratulate them for their excellent work.

New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

Social Worker Roxann Tuircuit transferred from Bridge city, and is now working in the Orleans Regional Office. While we know

BCCY misses her, the staff at Orleans OJJ welcomes Roxann and her dedication to OJJ youth.

PPO3 Stanley Schofield's topic for discussion this month was "Living the Dream." Stanley was able to encourage the 6th graders at Dilbert Elementary School and also the youth at Youth Works, NOLA! (a pre-GED and job training program). Living the Dream helps young people realize that with hard work they can have a better quality of life.

PPO3 Paula Kilbourne and **PPO2 Daria Melder** completed their firearms qualifications this month.

PPO1 Douglas Black, **PPO1 Daniel Johnson**, **PPO1 Daniel Mingea** and **PPO2 Daria Melder** completed PPCT Training this month in Hammond.

PPO2 Evalina Lestrick's nephew **Kaven Walker** played two different roles in the play "Oliver" presented by the Summer Lyric Theatre at Tulane University. Kaven is an 11 year old student at Arden Cahill Middle School, where he participates in numerous activities. Kaven heard about the play, decided to audition and landed the roles.

Shreveport Regional Office

Congratulations

PPO Jennifer Hill was honored by being selected as September **Employee of the Month**. PPO Hill is always eager to assist other officers and she is a dedicated employee.

Two newly promoted supervisors, **PPS Mitchell Lane** and **PPS Steve Martino**, have jumped into their new duties.

PPO Kristen McKee welcomed a baby girl, **Lillian Elise**, on September 18. Lillian weighed 6 lbs, 12 oz and was 18 inches long. Mother and baby are doing great!

PPS Jan Crain welcomed her first grandchild this month. **Jan's daughter, Jenny Cox**

delivered a son, **Shepherd Allen Cox** on September 22 in Dallas, Texas. Shepherd weighed 6 lbs, 5 oz and was 19 inches long. Congratulations to Jan and her family on the new addition!

PPOs Brandy Stratton, Fabrecia Roberson, and LaTonya Marshall began the Caddo Sheriff's Office POST Academy. They are doing well, and PPO Stratton has been named Group Leader. Way to go Brandy!

Lending a Hand

Shreveport OJJ staff assisted in the Tallulah and Monroe office audits this month. Assisting were **RM Kristi Martin, PPS Rick Ladner, PPS Kim Scott, PPS Guy May, PPS Mitchell Lane, PPS Steve Martino, and PPOs Dwain Wilemon, Daniel Barnard, Ticia Juneau, Todd Carlisle, and Jennifer Hill.**

In September Shreveport OJJ staff manned a rowing team and participated in the Dragon Boat Festival sponsored by the Rotary Club of Shreveport. Participating were **PPS Guy May, PPS Rick Ladner, PPO Sandy Ersoff, PPO Charles Herrmann, PPO Ticia Juneau, and Social Services Counselor Vernon Williams.** Thanks to Vern who coordinated the team!

Special Thanks

Shreveport OJJ would like to thank Central Office staff, **Program Manager Melba Oubre, Program Manager Carmen Leiva, Program Specialist Jan Crain, Program Specialist Walteree Barnes, and Program Specialist Monique LaCour** for providing a two day placement training to the office! We greatly appreciate the assistance!

Swanson Center for Youth

Swanson welcomes new **Director Carolyn Atkins.** We are delighted that she is aboard.

SCY Says Goodbye

A memorial service was held on September 24 for **Sergeant Leamon Windsor** who lost a long battle with cancer. Some of Sgt. Windsor's family attended the service, including his mother, brother, sister, sister-in-law and a family friend. **Joann Williams** conducted scripture and prayer and songs were performed by **Deputy Director Vernon Foy** and **Ms. Alma Holmes.** **Reverend Ricky James** gave words of encouragement while expressions were made by both youth and staff. Sgt. Windsor will be missed.

Thanks for a job well done

Interim Director Debbie Linder, along with **Deputy Directors Vernon Foy and Pam Green** treated **Captain Rodney Stewart** and **Team B** to food from Raising Cane's, to show appreciation to the shift for working so hard to have the fewest fights per shift, having a smooth shift and meeting the mission.



Team B3: Rocky Gipson, Markeya Dublin, Robert Nabors and Kristie Holmes.



Team B1: Ronny Miles, Julia Jackson, Joyce Turner and Jason Beauvais.



Team B2: Ronny Miles at the podium. Behind the podium re Dawn Deemer, Belinda Allen, Jason Beauvais, Terrance Walker, Joyce Turner, Julia Jackson and Fred Chaffould.

Swanson Staff enroll in One Year Certificate Classes

Several Swanson employees have decided to embark on a new endeavor by pursuing the OJJ Certificate of Louisiana Technical Studies.

Delta Community College & Louisiana Technical College instructors are teaching the class on Swanson's campus. The staff is very excited and really appreciate the staff at Delta Community College, Louisiana Technical College and **Staff Development Coordinator Glenda Joshua** for their efforts to make this dream a reality. The course work will allow our staff the opportunity to enhance and enrich their skills to work with our youth. This is the first college experience for some of the employees. They would also like to commend our agency for making it possible for them to continue their professional academic growth.

Swanson staff who are taking the class include **Donald Armstrong, Phyliss Benton, Commorbreo Barnett, Elihah Brown, Janice Curvin, Dornesia Harris, Willie Hill, Willis Hollis, Felicia Jackson, Cleveland Johnson, Dorothy Lee, Ronny Miles, Romona Montgomery, Robert Nabors, Connie Roberts and Angela Smith.**

Volunteers from the Eddie B. Conviction for Christ and C.O.O.L. Ministries visited Swanson in September to minister to the

youth through music, song, and a message of hope. The volunteers gave testimonies on how God changed their lives. The youth listened during the program and gave the visitors a standing ovation.

Tallulah Regional Office

PPO3 Truett Glass taught Child Abuse Awareness and Reporting to AMI Staff in September.

Some of our officers helped with Shreveport and Monroe's audit.

Thibodaux Regional Office

Congratulations

Administrative Supervisor Connie Becnel was chosen September Employee of the Month.

We had an appreciation gathering for our long-time **Regional Manager, Kelly Clement.** He will be greatly missed by all!! Thanks, Kelly, for all your knowledge, expertise, and guidance throughout these many years at Thibodaux OJJ !!

Welcome aboard, **Regional Manager Angela Koenig,** to Thibodaux OJJ. We also welcome her knowledge and expertise



The staff of Thibodaux OJJ.

TOJJ recently went through Sexual Offender Treatment Grant Training with local providers in Region IV with **Dr. Yolanda Crump.**

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

OJJ Administrative Team

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Girard J. Melancon, *Assistant Secretary*
Alan M. Boxberger, *Undersecretary*
Paula Merrick-Roddy, *Deputy Undersecretary*
Carolyn B. Lewis, *Deputy Assistant Secretary, Community Based Services*
Philippe Magloire, *Deputy Assistant Secretary, Facilities*
Ellyn Peterson, *Chief of Operations, Continuous Quality Improvement Services*
Michelle Smith, *Deputy Assistant Secretary, Special Projects*
Marlyn Goins-McCants, *Family & Community Liaison*
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Lake Charles: Melissa Cross
Monroe: Gail Wilson
Natchitoches: Rosa Brownlee
New Orleans: Paulette Carter & Judy Warren
Shreveport: Kristen McKee & Kristi Martin
Swanson: Kristi Walker
Tallulah: LaJuana Harrell
Thibodaux: Allison Lirrette

SPEAK (Special Projects, Expertise and Knowledge)

Michelle Smith, *Deputy Asst. Secretary, Special Projects*
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